

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MINUTES
August 31, 2009, Open Session

1. Convene Meeting - Chair Ron Cervasio called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:00 pm.

a. Roll Call - All School Committee members were present: Ron Cervasio, Chair, Cindy Bernard, Vice -Chair, Dennis Chretien, member. Also present were Principal/Superintendent, Dr. Davida Irving, Greg Piccirilli, Legal Counsel, and FSC Secretary, Mrs. McCullough.

b. Pledge of Allegiance - was recited.

2. Requests to Use School Facilities -

On a motion by Mr. Chretien seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee approved the requests for use of the building to SMT Executive meeting on Sept. 15, 2009, to the Paine School Garden Club for a presentation by the "Tree Whisper" through 'No Child Left Inside' on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 & 3, 2009, and to the Foster Emergency Shelter Team on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes -

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien, the School Committee approved the minutes of July 28, 2009 as amended changing Co-Chair to Vice-Chair.

Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee approved the Minutes of July 17, 2009 as amended changing the arrival time of Mrs. Bernard to 5:50 pm.

Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

4. Approval of Warrants -

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien, the School Committee approved the Warrant dated August 18, 2009 for \$38,201.24. Motion passed. Vote - 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio - yes

Mrs. Bernard - no

Mr. Chretien - yes

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Warrant dated August 18, 2009 for First Student and Sunoco in the amount of \$2,373.26. Motion passed. Vote - 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio - yes

Mrs. Bernard - recues

Mr. Chretien - yes

5. Approval of Home Schooling Requests - On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien, the School Committee approved the Home Schooling request from the following families:

Soares: Joshua - Grade 3 and Jacob Grade K.

Wilber: Travis - Grade 1 and Melanie - Grade 1

Thoman: Eyrk - Grade 5

Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

6. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. 2008-2009 Budget - Malcolm Moore, Business Manager had nothing to report.

b. 2009-2010 Budget -

Mr. Moore reported that the new Universal Chart of Accounts was up and running. The School Committee voted to accept Mr. Moore's report on a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted that the Budget Surplus Funds not be expended without prior approval of the School Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Chretien suggested making a policy for approval. Mrs. Bernard volunteered to help write a policy. Mr. Chretien wished to amend his suggestion to 'developing' a policy. Mr. Chretien and Mrs. Bernard withdrew their motion and the School Committee voted on a new motion proposed by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien to develop a policy for the expenditure of Budget Surplus Funds. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

c. Foster and Gloucester Human Resource Sharing -
Mr. Chretien had no new updates to report.

7. New business (for discussion)

a. Student Bus Transportation Policy Revision -
Dr. Irving requested that this item be tabled.

b. Technology Infrastructure Improvements -

Mrs. Walsh, Technology Assistant to the Superintendent, gave a power point presentation to the School Committee and explained the technology purchases.

c. Chart of Accounts -

Mr. Moore reported the Chart of Accounts was up and running.

d. Data Driven Reform -

Dr. Irving reported that Title 1 Grant IDEA funds will be used for purchasing the programs needed to help teachers with student progress and will also help fund Professional Development for teachers to aid in the Assessment of students.

e. First Grade Entrance Age Policy -

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to accept the first reading of the 'First Grade Entrance Age Policy'. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

f. FSC Meeting Dates (discussion/action) -

The proposed meetings for Mondays on October 26, 2009, and November 23, 2009 due to scheduling conflicts with Mrs. Bernard were not voted on as Mr. Chretien also had conflicts. Mr. Cervasio asked the two School Committee members to provide their available dates to Dr. Irving for these months in order to schedule future meetings.

8. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence -

The School Committee was provided with sample thank you letters from the Chair that went out to members of the Administrative Review Committee and the Administrative Search Committee and applicants for the Administrative position.

b. Superintendent's Report -

Dr. Irving, Principal/Superintendent, expressed her delight being able to work with the students and teachers of Paine School and was looking forward to the school year. She then reported that the new RI Education Commissioner, Dr. Grist, would be visiting the school on October 7, 2009. September 15, 2009 was a scheduled training day for the Student Information System MMS. She commented on the cleanliness of the school and the hard work the custodians did. The School Nurse, Marianne Soscia, was staying on top of the latest stats for H1N1 virus and was being vigilant about health safety.

Personnel: Recall / appointment

1. *.5 Behavioral Specialist* - after a discussion on the proposed position, Dr. Irving suggested tabling this item in order to gather data for one month and reporting back to the School Committee in September.
2. *.5 Non-Certified Personnel* - there was nothing to report.

c. Public Comment -

Ms. Pezza asked at the June 24th school committee meeting to have the committee provide the legal fees for Mr. Greg Piccirilli from March 24, 2009 to the present. Another parent asked if the water supply was tested.

d. Future Agenda Items -

Mrs. Joy Poland requested that the "No Child Left Inside" be placed on the September agenda for her to make a presentation and explanation.

9. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to go into **Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation** at 9:20 pm. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0. There was a five minute recess.

10. Return to Open Session - disclosure of any votes taken.

There were no votes taken. On a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded Mr. Chretien, the School Committee voted to seal the minutes from Executive Session of August 31, 2009. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to adjourn at 9:43 pm. Motion passed. Vote - 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Foster School Committee Secretary